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Voice of the People Heard By County Act Builders

A distinguished gathering of gentlemen waited on the County Act Commission at its regular weekly meeting in the Capitol last evening, pursuant to the general invitation of that body which seeks the widest expression of public opinion in the matter of framing a County Act which will be satisfactory to all and which will stand the test of law and conform to the requirements of the Organic Act. Federal Judge Sanford B. Dole, Associate Justice F. M. Hatch, Professor M. M. Scott, J. G. Pratt, Frank S. Dodge, W. T. Rawlins, Delegate Kuhio, Attorney General Andrews and W. R. Sims were present, the majority of those named giving voice to their sentiments. Fred Heckley was the only member of the County Act Committee not in attendance. Stenographer J. D. Avery was at his desk as clerk and distributed copies of the old County Act on the various desks.

Chairman Henry E. Cooper opened the evening's proceedings and after the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, spoke briefly on the importance of the work before the Commissioners and how valuable to them would be the suggestions of the thinking public. The Chairman was glad to see so many representative citizens present; he was glad that these men took so lively an interest in the work on hand. Mr. Cooper called on Federal Judge Dole to make a few remarks. In brief, Judge Dole spoke as follows:

"I noticed quite an array of names in the papers of persons who were expected to speak to you this evening on the questions propounded by the Commission at its last meeting," said Judge Dole. "I came here rather to listen to what others might have to say on the subject. I did not come prepared to speak on these questions, nevertheless I have a few definite ideas in regard to a county system of government and I will give them to you."

Dole's Definite Ideas.
"We have not yet to settle the legal phases of the question. We can guess at what legal determinations may be but there are certain legal phases of the proposition that we can not settle for ourselves; Congress alone can settle them for us."

"In regard to the appointment or election of Boards of Supervisors, I think it is sound policy for you gentlemen in drawing up a County Act to provide for the appointment of the boards by the Governor and look to the future to have this changed should it not prove satisfactory. We have had valuable experience in relation to the previous Act and should now determine not to try to get too much. That was the trouble before, we tried to get everything in sight and the result was that we got nothing. We should confine ourselves exactly as to what can be carried through."

"I am in favor of a simple form of County government, because our people are not experienced in political responsibilities; this experience they are more likely to acquire under a simple form of government than otherwise. From time to time this simple form may be added to as occasion demands. A growth of this kind will be more beneficial to the country as a whole. We need a process of natural growth. Changes will take place as the people find out what they need. I did not come prepared to speak on this subject, but as a matter of political study I am deeply interested in the adoption of county government."

Prof. Scott's Talk.
"I received notice yesterday to appear before the Commission," Professor Scott began. "It somewhat surprised me. As I understand it the advisability of the policy of having county and municipal government is not under consideration. We are here to discuss the best method of framing a County Act. We may assume that it is the policy of the political parties to have County Government. The Organic Act is so drawn that it is left to us to have this system of government or not as we desire. However, we are not discussing that question."

Election of Supervisors.
"In regard to the first question upon which views are asked—can the Boards of Supervisors be elected by the voters?—that can only be determined by the courts in the future—if we wait for that determination we will never have a system of county government. In reading the Organic Act I notice that the Governor has the power to appoint certain officials and boards—of education, public health, etc.—and I note also that the Organic Act is drawn as nearly as possible in accord with the forms of government which previously prevailed. The Organic Act gives the Legislature power to establish counties, towns and municipalities and provide for their government. There might then be established under counties boards whose functions were not co-extensive with the functions of the entire area of the Territory. In American counties the chief government is the Board of Supervisors. Now if the Governor appoints the Board of Supervisors where is the power of the electorate?"

An Absurdity.
"There seems to be an absurdity somewhere! Suppose the Legislature provided for a municipality for the City of Honolulu and a board of aldermen was appointed by the Governor—would

this not produce an absurdity?
"If it is for the Governor to appoint the Board of Supervisors our system of government will be concentrated more than now. If Congress gives us the right to make local government laws the natural inference, it seems to me, is that we have the right to say whether the Board of Supervisors shall be elected or appointed by the Governor. It seems to me natural to give the electorate the right to choose the Supervisors and not that the appointment should be lodged with the Governor."

Elect Supervisors.
"Make your county act without reference to Congress. It seems to me to be wise and sound policy in framing the Act to provide for the electing of the supervisors. It is not the natural American procedure to appoint instead of electing in such cases."

"The tendency is, even in America, to concentrate rather than distribute political power."

"Concerning the disposition of the Board of Health, in my opinion that should be maintained co-extensively with the Territorial government. In the matter of roads I think there should be an upper supervision. As to bridges and wharves I believe that the best results can be obtained by allowing the Territory to have charge."

Dealing With Schools.
"In regard to schools—education—if it is possible, as in Honolulu, where there is a great concentration of young people and wealth, local control would be advisable. But in the poorer, in the outside districts this system would not work so advantageously. In the populous cities at home there is local control of the schools. Here it might work well in Honolulu and Hilo but would not be for the best elsewhere."

Taxes for Schools.
In California the cities have the control of their education to a certain extent. There the supervisors have the power to vote so many mills on the dollar for taxation for this purpose. In Los Angeles they vote three and three-tenths mills on the dollar for primary and grammar schools—when the municipality wants a high school they bond the city. Then the State sets aside so much for education. Conditions are different in Hawaii. We must go at local control, it seems to me, slowly. I would like to give you an example of what local control might mean here. In Wailuku, where there are only one hundred and thirty children all told attending school, they are now putting up a \$30,000 school building. I consider this a great waste of money. It is political, of course, the member from Wailuku thinks because Honolulu has a high school Wailuku should also have a similar institution. It is really a waste."

"Yes, in my opinion, health, education and bridges and wharves should be co-extensive with the whole Territory."

Pratt's Views.
Referring to his past experiences with drafting county bills, J. G. Pratt went on with the following: "I appreciate the difficulty confronting you gentlemen of the Commission in the task you have of attempting to fit a system of county government under the conditions prevailing here at the present time."

"The best governed are the least governed if they are governed rightly. But that is the point, they must be governed rightly!"

"We have a good form of government and a good county government as we are governed now. As a county government I don't know how we could well improve our present form of government. If we could apply, in drawing up a new county act, the voting for the principal officials to our present government—electing members of the Legislature, for example, as the people's representatives—we would be obtaining an excellent system."

"Congress should be asked to do as little for us as possible. We should take it for granted that the power given us to create county government includes the privilege of electing the supervisors. Congress, in giving us the power to create also gave us the power to elect."

Would Congress Act?
Judge Dole—"Do you think that Congress would entertain the proposition of settling this question?"

Mr. Pratt—"The matter would receive the usual attention from committees, but I think that when it came to a discussion of the question on the floor of the Senate or the House it would not strengthen us in any way with Congress for us to ask Congress to do something for us that we ought to do for ourselves."

Commissioner Stewart—"What is your opinion in the matter of education and so forth?"

Mr. Pratt—"I agree with Professor Scott that the health and education and wharves and bridges departments should be under the supervision of the Territory."

Judge Hatch Talks.
"I came here to listen, not to speak," said Justice Hatch. "I agree with Professor Scott in the matter of education. Leave the schools as they are! Uniformity in the grade of education is a most important consideration—it is of the utmost importance. Concerning health—in such matters it is the modern tendency to concentrate

power, as witness the Federal Board of Health controlling the quarantine service of the nation. In such matters we would retrograde if we took the power from the Territory and gave it to the counties. The Territory should not be deprived of its power to construct roads. In the great State of New York today the State does a great deal in the way of making new roads, appropriating large sums for that purpose."

Towns Needed.
"It seems to me that we are commencing at the wrong end of local self government. First we should have townships and municipalities, then counties."

"As it is now, we will eventually have to go before Congress to be freed from the Organic Act. We are empowered by Congress to establish county government and yet we cannot take any powers from those to whom Congress has given power. We have nothing to say in the matter of public lands; as counties we can do nothing in the transfer of public property. When the right time comes, however, I think Congress will respond to our needs. But that's very different from asking Congress to do it all for us now. We should go ahead and do for ourselves all that we can."

Rawlins on Court.

"If the Supreme Court had decided all the points argued before it when the old County Act was under examination we would know where we stand tonight," said W. T. Rawlins.

"I am of the mind that when Congress gave us the power to establish county government it did not contemplate the appointment of supervisors by the Governor. Congress intended that we should have counties with all the incidents of counties."

"The principle of county government is the election by the voters of that county of all officials of the county. The appointment of supervisors by the Governor would be directly opposed to all American ideas. As I understand it from our Delegate to Congress, in regard to our taking the matter to Congress, the feeling in Washington is practically that if we cannot attend to our own affairs, our affairs will be taken out of our hands by Congress. There is no sense in our drawing up a doubtful Act and then asking Congress to perfect it for us."

Attorney General Andrews and Delegate Kuhio, when called upon by the Chair for their views, stated that they had merely come to listen to the ideas of others, begging to be excused.

Said Frank S. Dodge—"I have been opposed to county government all along. If we must have a county system, let us have one as simple as it is possible to make it. I think that the departments of health and education are particularly Territorial affairs. The supervision of roads is largely a Territorial matter. Harbors should remain in the hands of the Territorial government."

"A township is the best school of politics," said Judge Dole. "The law allows us counties, municipalities and townships. It would be a splendid thing for this country if in your work you could in some way provide for the township idea. Here it is that the common people are taught the basic principles of politics and local self government."

Township the School.

"The town is the habitat of the clan," said Professor Scott, "and the county of the tribe. The township idea is organic and has a right to be but it would simply multiply our troubles, I think. Let us have a simple county act—you can put an act in 2500 words. But as for townships—that would be giving us more trouble than we have. The township principle is a growth out of the soil—it is in the blood!"

"Then if it is in the blood, let us inculcate it at once!" said Justice Hatch. "If I were in your shoes, gentlemen, (addressing the Commissioners), to prevent running up against a legal snag on the proposition of electing or appointing supervisors—I'd name but one supervisor and I would have him elected (applause). One man cannot compose a board, so you are not electing a board."

Upon the suggestion of the Chair and a motion by T. McCants Stewart it was decided to set aside next Tuesday's meeting for further discussion by representative citizens, all who wished to assist with the expression of their ideas being cordially invited to attend. The Chair asked that the press urge the public to respond.

The meeting of last night terminated with Rawlins' suggestion and Judge Dole's approval of the idea of framing an act which, in the event of the court's deciding that the counties had not the power to elect Boards of Supervisors, would permit their appointment by the Governor.

AGRICULTURAL ORGAN.

Contents of the current number of the Hawaiian Forester and Agriculturist are as follows:

Manila Hemp.
Preservation of Scenery.
San Francisco Fruit Trust.
Useful and Ornamental.
Hawaii's Forest Laws Highly Praised.
Changes in Entomological Staff.
Various Notes.
The Fibre Industry in Hawaii—Banna Fibre.

A Preliminary List of the Insects of Economic Importance recorded from the Hawaiian Islands, by G. W. Kirkaldy, (continued from June number).

Hawaii Favors Forestry.
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Jolly Pedro Party At Wilcox Homestead

Lihue, Kauai, July 18.—The beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Wilcox was the scene of a delightful Pedro party on Saturday evening, July 16th. The house was delightfully decorated with ferns, carnations and roses.

Tables were arranged for progressive Pedro and the players began a series of nine games at about 8 o'clock. Pedro is exciting, but when all present, the ladies especially, are Pedro enthusiasts, as in this case, and there are prizes, the game becomes a most interesting contest.

Miss Elsie Wilcox and Mr. Crawford held the head table down for seven consecutive games out of the nine, and the attempt to beat them became a feature of the evening. Finally the playing was over and the scores were calculated, when it fell to the lot of Miss Elsie Wilcox to receive a handsome brooch representing the Hawaiian coat of arms, as first lady's prize, and Ralph Wilcox received a stick pin of a similar design as first gentleman's prize, while Mrs. J. A. Palmer got a box of candy, and also did A. Rice, on account of having the lowest scores. Sort of consolation prizes.

Arthur announced that he would give his candy to his best girl, and it immediately became a "guess-who" party.

Refreshments were served and after spending the remainder of the evening in conversation the guests departed hence from one of the most enjoyable parties given in Lihue. The guests present were Mr. and Mrs. John H. Coney, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Rice, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Palmer, Mrs. Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Wilcox, the Misses Elsie and Mable Wilcox, Miss Damon of Honolulu, Miss Dickie, who is visiting Miss Ethel Wilcox, Miss Ethel Wilcox, Miss Alice Roth, Messrs. Willard, A. H. Rice, Hills, Bergau, Crawford and Sam Mahelona—Garden Island.

BAND CONCERT TONIGHT.

The band will play tonight at Palanua. The program follows:

PART I.
March—"A Deed of the Pen" ... Moret
Overture—"The Golden Wand" ... Laurendeau
Ballad—"Alice Where Art Thou" ... Asher
Selection—"Pirates of Penzance" ... Sullivan
PART II.
Selection—"The Crackerjack" ... Mackie
March—"Pedro" ... Berger
Schottische—"Any Rags" ... Allen
Finale—"Navajo" ... Alstyne
"The Star Spangled Banner."

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The New England Life Insurance Co. of Boston.
The Aetna Fire Ins. Co. of Hartford, Conn.
The Alliance Assurance Co. of London.

BEST BOOKS FOR SUMMER READING

THE GIVERS, by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman.
IN SEARCH OF THE UNKNOWN, by Robert Chambers.
BRUYER JIM'S BABY, by Philip Verrill Mighels.
THE MAGNETIC NORTH, by Elizabeth Robins.
ANNA, THE ADVENTRESS, by E. Phillips Oppenheim.
THE LIGHT OF THE STAR, by Hamlin Garland.
THE BY-WAYS OF BRAITHE, by Francis Powell.
THE GATES OF CHANCE, by van Tassel Sutphen.

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